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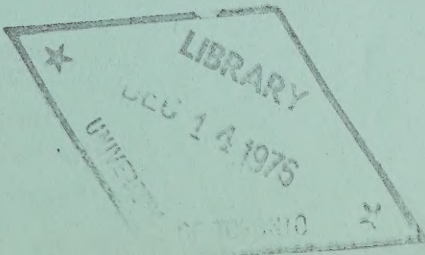
ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Government
Publications

OPEN MEETING WITH YORK UNIVERSITY

APRIL 11, 1975

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

5-0016 MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH YORK UNIVERSITY

LOCATION

York University

DATE AND TIME

April 11, 1975
2:00 p.m.

5-0017 PRESENT

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

W. E. Bagnall

A. L. McCallion

M. A. B. Bush

J. F. Mustard

A. D. D'Iorio

M. F. Orange

P. D. Fleck

R. P. Riggan

R. Gerstein

H. H. Walker

OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary

COU (Observer)

B. L. Hansen
Research Director

YORK DELEGATION

The President, H. Ian Macdonald, headed the York Delegation which consisted of Vice-Presidents W. D. Farr and W. W. Small, Deans of Faculties, the Director of the Library, Masters of Colleges, the Secretary of the University, and representatives from UFA, and the student councils.

In addition to items dealt with in depth in the University's brief, discussion focused on the following:

5-0018 FORMULA REVISION

Council learned that York had the capacity for further growth without changing educational objectives but that the University did not wish any review of its policies to be constrained or coloured by financial considerations. Current dialogue among the Government, the universities and the public on such matters as formula revision was delaying further definition of York's goals and objectives.

The delegation stressed that the 1975 formula allocations and those for previous years had been inequitable and, therefore, the current year should not be used as base for future year pro rata increases. York reiterated its support of the mix argument for supplementary funding and felt closely aligned with Carleton University in this regard.

The York delegation did not recall having been offered a general average undergraduate Arts and Science weight as had been adopted at the University of Toronto. Currently the average undergraduate Arts and Science weight at York was only slightly under Toronto's 1.24 average, and at Glendon College moderately higher.

The delegation elaborated on a request for a retroactivity mechanism to increase income for students from the general stream who take a fourth year to obtain an Honours Degree. It was explained that the fourth year was expensive and that during the first three years all students could take honours pre-requisite courses, with a grade proviso, whether or not they declared themselves to be in the honours or general stream.

The brief's reference to the minima/maxima convention for graduate student support related directly to students in science and social science experimental areas who exceed the maxima.

Council suggested that in the first instance OOGS would be the appropriate agency to explore this situation.

5-0019 TUITION FEES

York's position on the Board's prerogative to set fees, in principle, hinged on the preservation of university autonomy regardless of the unpleasantness which continued assumption of such responsibilities might entail.

5-0020 ACCESSIBILITY AND ADMISSIONS

The York delegation expressed concern that applicants without past preparation and skills in reading, writing, and mathematics were excluded from a university education on the basis of artificial criteria, in that the universities were unable to provide remedial training due to fiscal stringency. At Atkinson College an admission test used to grade mature entrants had been discontinued 2 years previously. It was felt that the usual long duration of part-time studies involved built-in remedial work through gradual acquisition of skills.

York's first-class students encountered no difficulty in gaining admission to medical and professional schools elsewhere and it was stressed that York's own professional school entrance criteria scrupulously disregarded the location of previous studies. A student representative expressed the opinion that professional schools should gear admissions to the needs of students on a system-wide basis and should not favour in-house undergraduates.

5-0021 ENROLMENT FORECAST

The delegation explained that although a 5% growth figure was mentioned in the brief, current applications indicated that the

actual growth would just exceed 3%. It was felt that York was unattractive to Grade XIII students with a professional orientation and that external constraints on the University's ability to attract science students in particular should be studied on a system-wide basis.

It was noted that the graduate enrolments in some disciplines were constrained by ACAP restrictions and that in others there were insufficient applicants with adequate preparation.

Underfilled programme capacity in a number of areas, both graduate and undergraduate, was generally due to excess faculty, not space.

5-0022 STUDENT SUPPORT

With regard to OGSP the delegation criticized the lack of an adequate revision list in the past.

At York all graduate students received either a scholarship or assistantship. Annually York spent \$683,000 on teaching assistantships, \$816,000 on non-teaching assistantships, and \$60,000 on internal graduate scholarships. Undergraduate entrance scholarships detailed in the brief were funded from non-formula sources. The delegation noted that should the funding formula become completely enrolment-desensitized there would be no advantage to freeing up the use of operating funds for student support. While York felt it should cut back on undergraduate entrance scholarships due to fiscal austerity, these had at least produced stability in the number of entrants each year.

5-0023 GRADUATE STUDIES

York was currently investigating the appropriate balance between undergraduate instruction, graduate instruction, and research activity.

The delegation doubted that discipline limitations, especially at the thesis stage, could be internally monitored, and raised the question of how programme quality could be assessed in a situation where a system-wide plan had not been developed. It was felt that OCUA should be involved in the ACAP process which would result in COU taking responsibility for system planning, rationalization, and assessment; OCUA ensuring that social objectives were achieved; and MCU allocating financial support.

5-0024 SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

It was noted that the York/Ryerson Computing Centre would be dealt with in depth at the Ryerson hearing at which time York representatives would be present.

The delegation expressed concern with progress on the Monograph Demonstration Project and noted an inability to obtain cost data in this regard. It was suspected that delays in completion of the project were due in part to an inability to find a neutral source for processing, or that where facilities did exist, interest in the product of the project did not.

5-0025 MACRO-INDICATORS

The delegation was concerned about increased interest in productivity measurements insofar as the nation over the last three years had shown a zero productivity gain. It was felt that student:staff ratios, and the like, did not conceptually relate to productivity but rather fell in line with the "more scholar for the dollar" policy. The University would be reticent to enter into massive system-wide assessments which allow individual universities to escape from making cost-necessitated decisions to achieve economies.

5-0026 UNIVERSITY/PUBLIC/GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The delegation felt that the position of the universities had not been well enough explained or given adequate public exposure and that OCUA and the universities should give this immediate and strong

consideration.

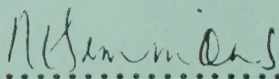
Council advised that as a buffer it should not form a political lobby but exhorted the universities individually and collectively to act in this regard.

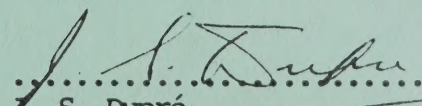
5-0027 STATUS OF WOMEN

With regard to the section of its brief on the Status of Women, the delegation pointed out that a woman member of faculty would be appointed to implement and follow up on the recommendations in the Task Force Report. The President agreed with a suggestion that the University could use the cost of implementing such socially-accepted equality policies as a funding rationale.

5-0028 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Although York would not incur a deficit in 1975-76, it was observed that sight should not be lost of the \$750,000 which had accrued from their supplementary grant. The delegation stressed that it felt York's financial future was insecure.


.....
N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary


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J. S. Dupré
Chairman

